

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 3 on page 17 of the Specification as follows:

FIG. 6 is a block diagram illustrating another preferred embodiment 100 of the microphone element 36. The source light from the optical link 38 enters a directional optical coupler 102, which directs the source light through a first optical path 104. A diaphragm 106 has a translucent or semi-transparent wedge 108 attached to its back surface. Sound waves from the user's 22 mouth, representative of the audio, deform the diaphragm 106. The deformed diaphragm 106 interposes the wedge ~~180~~108 between the first optical path 104 and a second optical path 110. As the wedge 108 is further interposed between the optical paths, the wedge 108 further attenuates the source light as it crosses from the first optical path 104 to the second optical path 110 because the source light has to pass through more of the translucent or semi-transparent material of which the wedge 108 is made. The degree of attenuation of the source light is representative of the audio. In this manner, the light in the second optical path 110 is amplitude modulated by the sound waves. The directional optical coupler 102 accepts the modulated light signal from the second optical path 110 and directs the modulated light signal to the optical link 38 where it is transported to the optical transceiver 40 for conversion to the first electrical signal that is representative of the audio.